AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1(Currently amended). A shoe press belt for receiving water from a wet web through a felt in a nip area comprising a press roll and a shoe, where the felt and the wet web placed thereon are compressed, the belt having a main body with a wet web side layer ~~comprising a~~ capable of contacting a felt, the wet web-side layer being composed of a single, hydrophobic, high molecular weight, elastic material, the wet web side layer having a ~~hydrophobic~~ wet web facing surface, and the wet web side layer having a water holding section formed in its wet web facing surface.

2(Original). A shoe press belt according to claim 1, in which the magnitude of the hydrophobic property of the wet web facing surface is such that the contact angle between the edge of a drop of water and the wet web facing surface is at least 50°.

3(Cancelled).

4(Cancelled).

5(Original). A shoe press belt having a main body with a wet web side layer comprising a high molecular weight elastic material, the wet web side layer having a wet web facing surface, in which the wet web side layer has a water holding section formed in its wet web facing surface, the water holding section having interior surfaces, in which the wet web facing surface of said wet web side layer is hydrophilic, and in which at least a part of the interior surfaces of said water holding section are hydrophobic.

6(Original). A shoe press belt according to claim 5, in which the magnitude of the hydrophobic property of each said hydrophobic part of the interior surfaces of said water holding section is such that the contact angle between the edge of a drop of water and each said hydrophobic part of the interior surfaces of said water holding section is at least 50°.

7(Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a shoe press belt for receiving water from a wet web through a felt in a nip area comprising a press roll and a shoe, where the felt and the wet web placed thereon are compressed, comprising, as a first step, the formation of a wet web side layer of a main body of a belt from a single high molecular weight, hydrophobic, elastic material, said wet web side layer being capable of contacting a felt, and, as a second step, the formation of a ~~hydrophobic~~ water holding section on a wet web facing surface ~~by grinding said~~ of the wet web side layer.

8(Cancelled).

9(Original). A method of manufacturing a shoe press belt comprising, as a first step, the formation of a wet web side layer of a main body of a belt from a high molecular weight, hydrophobic, elastic material, the wet web side layer having a wet web facing surface, as a second step, the formation of a film on said wet web facing surface, the film comprising a high molecular weight hydrophilic elastic material of hydrophilic property, and, as a third step, the formation of a water holding section extending through said film and into said wet web side layer.

10(Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a shoe press belt for receiving water from a wet web through a felt in a nip area comprising a press roll and a shoe where the felt and the wet web placed thereon are compressed, comprising, as a first step, the formation of a wet web side layer of a main body of a belt from a high molecular weight, hydrophilic, elastic material, the wet web side layer having a wet web facing surface, as a second step, the formation of a water holding section extending from said wet web facing surface into the wet web side layer, and, as a third step, the formation of a film, comprising a high molecular weight, hydrophobic elastic material, on an inner surface of said water holding section while maintaining the wet web facing surface of said wet web side layer as a hydrophilic surface.

11(Currently amended). In a ~~shoe press of a~~ papermaking machine, a shoe press comprising a press roll, a shoe, a felt having a wet web placed thereon, and a shoe press belt, portions of the wet web, felt and shoe press belt being compressed between the press roll and the shoe, with the felt being disposed between the wet web and the shoe press belt, wherein said shoe press belt ~~having~~ has a main body with a wet web side layer ~~comprising a~~ contacting said felt, the wet web side layer being composed of a single, hydrophobic, high molecular weight, elastic material, the wet web side layer having a ~~hydrophobic~~ wet web facing surface and a water holding section formed in said wet web facing surface.

12(Currently amended). A shoe press ~~of a papermaking machine~~ according to claim 11, in which the magnitude of the hydrophobic property of the wet web facing surface is such that the contact angle between the edge of a drop of water and the wet web facing surface is at least 50°.

13(Cancelled).

14(Cancelled).

15(Original). In a shoe press of a papermaking machine, shoe press belt having a main body with a wet web side layer comprising a high molecular weight elastic material, the wet web side layer having a wet web facing surface, in which the wet web side layer has a water holding section formed in its wet web facing surface, the water holding section having interior surfaces, in which the wet web facing surface of said wet web side layer is hydrophilic, and in which at least a part of the interior surfaces of said water holding section are hydrophobic.

16(Original). A shoe press of a papermaking machine according to claim 15, in which the magnitude of the hydrophobic property of each said hydrophobic part of the interior surfaces of said water holding section is such that the contact angle between the edge of a drop of water and each said hydrophobic part of the interior surfaces of said water holding section is at least 50°.